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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,613	09/27/2001	Rik Sagar	US018141	4776
24737	7590	04/20/2006	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			JABR, FADEY S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/966,613	Applicant(s) SAGAR, RIK	
	Examiner Fadey S. Jabr	Art Unit 3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

Claims **1, 11, 14, 16, 18 and 25** have been amended. Claims **1-25** remain pending and are again presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment filed 30 January 2006, with respect to the Objection of Claim 18, has been withdrawn due to Applicant's amendment.
2. Applicant's amendment filed 3 February 2006, with respect to rejections under 35 U.S.C. sections 112, second paragraph, has been withdrawn due to Applicant's amendment.
3. Applicant's arguments filed 30 January 2006, with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. section 102 (e), have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
4. Applicant's arguments filed 30 January 2006, with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. section 103 (a), have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
5. Applicant argues (with respect to claims 1-7, 1 and 25) that Sunyich does not disclose a provider network or a home network. Examiner notes that Sunyich does disclose a provider network where guest preferences are stored in a database where the preferences are used to prepare the guest's hotel room (para. 8). The statement that the database is preferably a centralized database does not limit the reference to only a centralized database. Also, Examiner notes that Sunyich also discloses a database storing guest preferences. Sunyich discloses a smart card which stores guest preferences, and can be used to electronically check-in to a hotel room in advance of arriving to the hotel or scanned when beginning the automated check-in process,

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therefore transmitting the guest preferences from the guest database to the provider database (paras. 26-27).

6. Applicant argues (with respect to claims 9 and 10) that it would not have been obvious from Sunyich's teachings to have a database storing preferred office equipment/supplies or preferred configuration of a PC that is part of a provider network and a database storing preferred office equipment or supplies that is part of a home network. Examiner notes that Sunyich discloses preferences regarding activation of an Internet connection, bed size, proximity to restaurants and pools, etc. Sunyich also discloses that the automated check-in and room preferences setting system can also be applied to other "lodging situations" (paras. 28 and 45). Therefore, the preferences are not limited to only hotel accommodations, but apply to many other lodging situations, e.g. an office.

7. Upon further review of Daum et al., Examiner notes that Daum et al. teaches home network preferences which are saved (e.g. configurable settings of a user); Daum et al. also teaches flash memory along with a CPU, where the settings are stored. (see figures 5 and 19a). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Sunyich and include preferences from the home network of the user, which include settings for appliances (e.g. refrigerator) which are found in Daum et al. and Sunyich, because they provide the user with convenience by preparing the hotel room with the preferences prior to the guest arriving (para. 24).

8. Applicant argues (with respect to claims 18 and 19) that there is no teaching or suggestion in Lee for modifying the database to transmit a customer's programmed speed dials to a provider database, which in turn downloads the customer's programmed speed dials onto a

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telephone at another site. Examiner notes that Lee teaches a user's speed dialing information being stored in a database that when accessed by the user the settings are stored at the remote location's database (col. 3, lines 8-20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sunyich, Pub. No. US2003/0149576 A1.

As per **Claim 1**, Sunyich discloses an automated booking system for guest accommodations, comprising:

- a guest accommodation which can be automatically booked by the system and used by the customer for a period of time (Para. 16, 17 and 21);
- a provider network of a guest accommodations reservation provider having a data base for customer preferences (Para. 8);
- reserving means for communication between a home network and the provider network for reserving the guest accommodations for a period of use (Para. 8);

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- preference transmission means for transmitting customer preferences from a data base of the home network to the data base of the provider network (Para. 26-27);
- and means for accessing the provider data base for providing the accommodations depending on the customer preferences (Para. 21).

As per **Claim 2**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the guest accommodations are selected from: a hotel room with hotel facilities, a guest office with office facilities, a rental car package, an airline seat package, a restaurant table package, and a train seat package (Para. 45, lines 14-20).

As per **Claim 3**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the customer preferences include the configuration of the guest accommodations (Para. 14, lines 1-4).

As per **Claim 4**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the customer preferences include preferences regarding the location of the guest accommodations with respect to features of the accommodations or the locations of accommodations of other guests (Para. 15, lines 1-15).

As per **Claim 5**, Sunyich further discloses system in which the customer preferences include user programmable settings of consumer appliances in the guest accommodations (Para. 16, 17).

As per **Claim 6**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the customer preferences include preferred contents of a refrigerator in the guest accommodation (Para. 17, lines 3-5).

As per **Claim 7**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the customer preferences include preferred food and food preparation equipment in the guest accommodations (Para. 17, lines 7-11).

As per **Claim 8**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the customer preferences include meal preferences (Para. 17).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims **9 and 10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sunyich, Pub. No. US2003/0149576 A1.

As per **Claims 9 and 10**, Sunyich fails to explicitly disclose customer preferences including preferred office equipment or supplies in the guest accommodations. However, Sunyich teaches a system in which the customer preferences include preferred environmental settings, food, lighting and internet connection (Para. 16, 17 and 45). It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Sunyich and include preferences for preferred office equipment because it would provide the customer with an improved user-friendly system with greater convenience.

5. Claims **11-17, and 20-25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sunyich, Pub. No. US2003/0149576 A1 in view of Daum et al., Pub. No. US2003/0109938 A1.

As per **Claims 11 and 25**, Sunyich discloses an automated booking system for guest accommodations, comprising:

- a guest accommodation which can be automatically booked by the system and used by the customer for a period of time and which can be provided with guest appliances (Para. 16, 17 and 21);
- a network of an accommodations provider, the provider network having a data base, the guest appliances of the guest accommodations are connected to the provider network (Para. 21);
- reservation means in communication with a home network of a customer and the provider network for reserving the guest accommodations for a period of use (Para. 8, 26 and 27);
- settings transmission means for transmitting the user programmable settings of the home appliances of the customer to the provider data base (Para. 8); and
- means for downloading the user programmable settings from the provider data base into the guest appliances of the guest accommodations for programming the

appliances of the guest accommodations at the time of the customer's use of the accommodations (Para. 8 and 21).

Nonetheless, Sunyich fails to disclose a system comprising a home network of a customer, the home network interconnecting home appliances having user programmable settings. However, Daum et al. teaches a home network that transmits commands between a source and appliances (See Claim 1 of Daum et al). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Sunyich and include the preferences from the home network of the customer as taught by Daum et al. because it greatly improves the efficiency of the system by providing the user with convenience and a system that is user-friendly.

As per **Claims 12**, Sunyich fails to explicitly disclose a system in which settings for a plurality of the customer's home appliances are transmitted, stored and downloaded into corresponding appliances of the accommodations that have functions similar to the corresponding home appliances. However, Sunyich teaches a system that allows users to enter their preferred environmental preferences, and also discloses that the system would be appropriate in other lodging situations (Para. 8 and 45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Sunyich and include the preferences from one's home network because it greatly improves the efficiency of the system by providing the user with convenience and a system that is user-friendly.

As per **Claim 13**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the settings of a plurality of the customer's home appliances are analyzed to determine user programmable settings for appliances that are different from the customer's home appliances (Para. 15, lines 11-15).

As per **Claim 14-16**, Sunyich fails to disclose a system in which the home network includes a data base containing the user programmable settings of devices connected to the home network. However, Daum et al. teaches a database to control the programmable settings of the home network (Para. 34). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Sunyich and include a database with programmable settings of the appliances as taught by Daum et al. because it greatly improves the efficiency of the system by providing the user with convenience and a system that is user-friendly.

As per **Claim 17**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the external network includes one or more of: a cable television network, a telephone network, and the internet (Para. 19).

As per **Claim 20**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the programmable settings include environmental settings selected from one or more of temperature, humidity, and light level settings (Para. 16).

As per **Claim 21**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the programmable settings include a channel map for translating between sources of multimedia programming and means for selecting multimedia programming (Para. 16, lines 10-15).

As per **Claim 22**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the means for selecting programming includes a plurality of buttons on a remote control and channel map allows the customer in the hotel room to use the same series of one or more remote control buttons to select a desired programming source as the series of buttons he uses in his home to select that source (Para. 16, lines 10-15).

As per **Claim 23**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the programmable settings include settings of software of a personal computer of the hotel room (Para. 16, lines 14-15).

As per **Claim 24**, Sunyich further discloses a system in which the programmable settings include security settings including a security code of a room alarm system (Para. 15, line 10).

6. Claims **18 and 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sunyich, Pub. No. US2003/0149576 A1 in view of Daum et al., Pub. No. US2003/0109938 A1 as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Lee et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,899,373.

As per **Claims 18 and 19**, Sunyich fails to disclose in which the programmable settings

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include speed dial settings for dialing make telephone calls or a facsimile by pushing fewer buttons than the number of digits in corresponding phone numbers. However, Lee et al. teaches a database with a customer's programmed speed dials (Col. 1, lines 56-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Sunyich and include preferences for programmable settings that include speed dialing as taught by Daum et al. because it greatly improves the convenience of the system by providing the user with convenience and a system that is user-friendly.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations

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within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fadey S. Jabr whose telephone number is (571) 272-1516. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fadey S Jabr
Examiner
Art Unit 3639

FSJ

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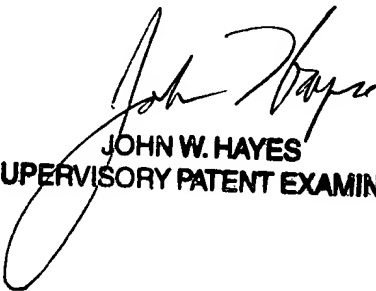
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JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER